

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses comprising:

a recording unit having a plurality of loops for executing instructions from a host unit and a plurality of recording media;

a loop monitoring unit for detecting any abnormality in any of said loops; and a loop controller for controlling said loops according to the result of monitoring by said loop monitoring unit;

wherein said loop controller, if said loop monitoring unit detects any abnormality in a specific loop, suspends the execution of any instruction in said specific loop.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim [[2]] 1, wherein:

said loop controller, after suspending the execution of any instruction in said specific loop, substitutes another loop than said specific loop for further execution of the instruction done by said specific loop until then.

4. (original) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:

said loop controller, after substituting the execution of the instruction previously done by said specific loop, diagnoses said specific loop.

5. (original) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said loop controller, after diagnosing said specific loop, severs a specific one of said recording media from said specific loop.

6. (original) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said loop controller, after severing said recording medium from said specific loop, releases the execution of any instruction by said specific loop from suspension.

7. (original) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 6, further includes:

a maintenance terminal for entering information equivalent to the result of monitoring by said loop monitoring unit from elsewhere than said plurality of loops, wherein said loop controller controls said loops according to information entered into said maintenance terminal.

8. (original) The loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

said maintenance terminal displays information extracted from said loop controller.

9. (currently amended) A loop diagnosis method applicable to a loop diagnosis system for disk array apparatuses

having a plurality of loops for executing instructions from a host unit and a plurality of recording media, including:

a loop monitoring step to detect any abnormality in any of said loops; and

a loop control step to control said loops according to the result of monitoring at said loop monitoring step;

wherein at said loop control step, if any abnormality in a specific loop is detected at said loop monitoring step, the execution of any instruction in said specific loop is suspended.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The loop diagnosis method for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim [[10]] 9, wherein:

at said loop control step, after suspending the execution of any instruction in said specific loop, another loop than said specific loop is substituted for further execution of the instruction done by said specific loop until then.

12. (original) The loop diagnosis method for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 11, wherein:

at said loop control step, after substituting the execution of the instruction previously done by said specific loop, said specific loop is diagnosed.

13. (original) The loop diagnosis method for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

at said loop control step, after diagnosing said specific loop, a specific one of said recording media is severed from said specific loop.

14. (original) The loop diagnosis method for disk array apparatuses, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

at said loop control step, after severing said recording medium from said specific loop, the execution of any instruction by said specific loop is released from suspension.